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THE BAPTIST Record

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WHAT'S IN THE RECORD

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MBCB sends '00 budget to messengers

By Tim Nicholas, director
Office of Communication

The Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB) on August 24 approved a proposed Cooperative Program budget of \$28,083,349 for the year 2000.

The MBCB, meeting at the Baptist Building in Jackson, voted unanimously for the budget which is 5.55% higher (\$1,475,459) than that of 1999 (\$26,607,890.)

The final vote on the budget will go before messengers to the Mississippi Baptist Convention, meeting in Jackson on Oct. 26-27.

The budget committee has followed a process of recommending next years' budget not to exceed the current year's anticipated receipts. As of the end of July the 1999 Cooperative Program was on target to receive \$28,083,349.

The budget is divided into four areas: Southern Baptist Causes, slated to receive \$10,390,839, or 37%; Shared Responsibilities - MBC Matching Portion, \$810,000, or 2.88%; Mississippi Institutions and Agencies, \$7,096,375, or 25.27%; and Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, \$9,786,135, or 34.85%.

Each of the Southern Baptist causes is slated to receive 5.55% more than the 1999 budget amounts. These causes include Southern Baptist Convention operating expenses, \$322,178; International Mission Board, \$4,852,074; North American Mission Board, \$2,211,575; Annuity Board, \$73,752; SBC seminaries, \$2,099,978; and the Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission, \$144,592.

Four areas of work under Southern Baptist causes are considered directly funded missions. These are International Missions (World A - Unreached Nations), International Partnership Missions, and North American Partnership Missions, each receiving \$140,417; and Home Mission Work in Mississippi, receiving \$265,440.

Mississippi Baptists have missions partnerships with Ukraine, Honduras, and Maryland-Delaware.

MBCB executive committee chairman Frank Harmon, pastor of First Church, Newton, explained that the percentage of the budget going to SBC causes is consistent with prior years.

Harmon noted that the portion of church undesignated offerings going to the Cooperative Program has dropped an entire percentage point in six years — from 11.5% in 1992 to 10.5% in 1998.

The "shared responsibilities" area is the money which is matched by churches and individuals participating in the church annuity program. The MBCB contributes a maximum of \$35 per month per participant toward the matching program.

In the Mississippi Institutions and Agencies section of the budget, the Baptist Children's Village would receive \$505,740, or 1.80%; the Board of Ministerial Education, \$357,114, or 1.27%; Christian Action Commission, \$283,778, or 1.01%; Christian Education, \$4,868,400, or 17.33%; Christian Education Capital Needs,

\$650,000, or 2.32%; Historical Commission, \$54,330, or .19%; Mississippi Baptist Foundation, \$377,013, or 1.34%.

Mississippi Baptists are affiliated with Mississippi Baptist Health Systems in Jackson and Baptist Memorial Health Care Corporation in Memphis, but neither requested Cooperative Program funds.

The Christian Education Commission distributes the Christian Education funds to the three Baptist colleges in Mississippi. The three schools are Mississippi College, in Clinton; William Carey College in Hattiesburg; and Blue Mountain College in Blue Mountain.

MBCB executive director Jim Futral told the board that the MBCB evangelism department has two consultants, Ed Deuschle and Don Lum, who had been paid with interest on accounts. Futral said that the new budget takes their salaries from Cooperative Program funds.

Should giving to the Cooperative Program in 2000 exceed the budget amount, four areas will receive funds in these pre-arranged percentages: Christian education, 50%; international missions, 30%; North American missions, 10%; and

Mississippi missions, 10%.

In other business, the MBCB approved price increases of 2-3% at Gulfshore Assembly in Pass Christian.

A salary study and a new elevator were among items the MBCB executive Committee approved in their Aug. 23-24 meeting prior to the full board meeting.

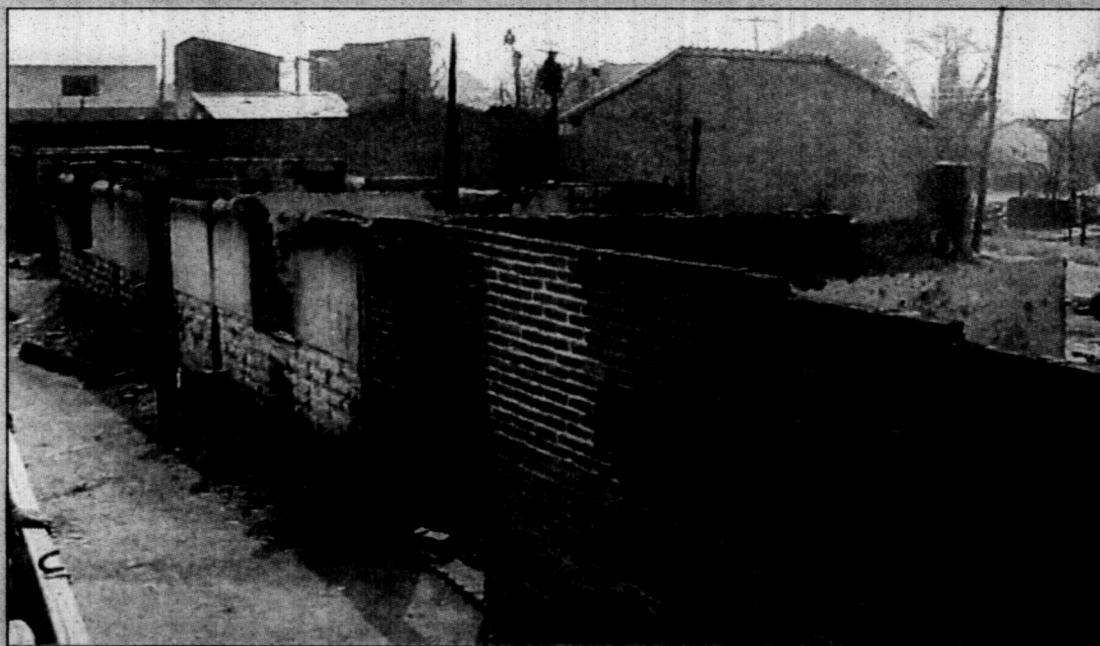
In addition, the group learned that the MBCB's audit by KPMG Peat Marwick was delivered with an "unqualified opinion," meaning that nothing of concern to the auditing company was discovered in the audit. The committee approved KPMG Peat Marwick as auditors for next year.

Phillip Blount and Associates of Duluth, Ga., will perform the salary study. The purpose, according to MBCB associate executive director Barri A. Shirley, will be to study the salary administration of the convention board to make recommendations concerning the relative worth of different positions among the 132 staff members.

The study will have a cost of up to \$36,930, to be taken from the board's operating fund.

Please turn to MBCB on page four

Disaster relief fund announced for Bolivian wildfires response

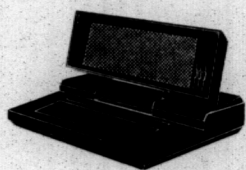


While worldwide prayers and relief efforts focus on the devastating earthquake in Turkey, a trio of Mississippi missionaries are responding to a less well-known disaster in Bolivia. International Mission Board (IMB) representatives Tom and Cynthia Martin, members of First Church, Clinton, and Trey Wooten, member of Morrison Heights Church, Clinton, are working with the Guarayu people, who have lost more than 700 homes to wildfires in and around the Bolivian city of Ascension. Over 3,000 people are now homeless due

to the wildfires, which started August 14.

A special fund to help with disaster relief in Bolivia has been established by the Men's Ministry (formerly Brotherhood) Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB). Proceeds of the fund will be sent to IMB and designated for the Bolivian relief effort. Contributions should be mailed to MBCB Men's Ministry Department, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Checks should be made payable to MBCB and designed "for Bolivian disaster relief."

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK



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Get to know The Baptist Faith & Message

Members of the "blue ribbon committee" that will study the Baptist Faith and Message have just been appointed by Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) President Paige Patterson, who also serves as president of Southeastern Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C. (See article on page four.)

The committee, authorized by messengers to the 1999 SBC annual meeting in Atlanta earlier this summer, is charged with reviewing the Baptist Faith and Message for any possible changes and issuing a report on its findings at the 2000 SBC annual meeting in Orlando.

The committee will be chaired by Adrian Rogers, pastor of Bellevue Church in suburban Memphis. The committee includes seven pastors, one Baptist Student Union director, one state Woman's Missionary Union director, an SBC agency head, two former SBC presidents, two seminary presidents, three representatives of ethnic fellowships, a layman, and the wife of an SBC agency head.

With respect for the obvious fact that not everyone can be appointed to a 15-member committee, it should still be duly noted that no Mississippi Baptists were tapped for service on this important body.

This Baptist Faith and Message committee is an important body, because the Baptist Faith and Message represents the core of who we are and what we believe as Southern Baptists. It is not — and was never meant to be — creedal in any respect, but it is certainly an accurate representation of our heartfelt prayers and high aspirations to be faithful followers of Christ.

Every Southern Baptist should have a copy of the Baptist Faith and Message, the entirety of which is contained in a small pamphlet that can be read in a matter of minutes. The Baptist Faith and Message is as concise as it is elegant.

Every Southern Baptist should be familiar with its contents, especially now as the committee begins its review of this seminal document. A copy of the Baptist Faith and Message can be obtained by writing the

Evangelism Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 968-3800 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.

A pair of worthy companion studies are: *What Baptists Believe* (Broadman Press) by the late Baptist statesman Herschel H. Hobbs — who chaired the committee that wrote the 1963 version of *The Baptist Faith and Message* that is in use today — and *Baptist Polity As I See It* (Broadman & Holman) by our own Baptist statesman, Mississippian James L. Sullivan, former president of the Southern Baptist Convention and former president of the Baptist Sunday School Board (now LifeWay Christian Resources).

Both books are available from your nearest LifeWay Christian Store or by calling LifeWay toll-free at (800) 233-1123.

It is important for Southern Baptists to have a clear understanding of *The Baptist Faith and Message* and how we govern ourselves as a denomination. Decisions are about to be made in regard to this document that will affect how the world perceives us as followers of Christ, how we perceive ourselves, and how we will get along with each other for many years to come.

This review of *The Baptist Faith and Message* could grow into the dominant issue in Southern Baptist life over the next couple of years. If you want your voice to be heard,

"FRED USED TO BE A
BAPTIST AND HE WANTS
IT SERVED TO HIM
IN HIS PEW."



begin now to familiarize yourself with this document.

A complete address list of committee members was not available by deadline for this issue, but *The Baptist Record* will endeavor to publish those addresses in an upcoming issue. Don't waste the committee members' time, however, until you are well-versed in the contents of *The Baptist Faith and Message*.

Whatever decisions are ultimately handed down by the committee, for many reasons it behooves each of us to become as familiar and comfortable with *The Baptist Faith and Message* as we are with the U.S. Constitution and the Bill of Rights.

It's that important. Really.

A PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE:



*Will the church be
renewed?*

By Carl M. White, Associate Editor

Stephen Ambrose, in the conclusion of his book *Citizen Soldier*, observed that during the mid 1940s, squads and platoons of 18-19 year old teens, wearing uniforms and carrying weapons, walked into towns and villages all over the world. Citizens reacted in terror, hiding or fleeing, because their arrival meant rape, murder, and destruction. Unless, of course, those young men were Americans. In that case, the citizens came out into the streets to celebrate their arrival, because in the mid 1940s the arrival of American GIs meant liberation and freedom.

We sent the best of a generation of young men and women around the world to fight evil and to liberate oppressed people. These men and women came of age in a society whose common assumptions were basically Christian. They believed in God, in his Son, in the church, the reality of evil, the redemption of humanity, and the hope for a better life. Armed with these convictions, they changed the world.

Now, the world has changed again.

In his insightful book, *An 8-*

track Church in a CD World, Robert N. Nash, Jr. tells how he came to the realization that something had changed. While walking down a hall at the college where he teaches, a student whom Nash knew to be a devout Christian with a brilliant intellect asked, "Do you really believe that Christianity is the only true religion?"

More disturbing than the question, Nash said, was the realization that the assumptions behind the question are increasingly normative — truth is relative, thus no one religion has a claim on truth; there is one single power behind all religions; and it is more important to seek that power in your own way than learn more

about the particulars of Biblical Christianity.

This explains Nash's second discovery, that book stores are full of books on spirituality, but not from a Christian perspective. Though people are increasingly interested in spiritual things, the Christian faith is increasingly seen as one religion among many other equally truthful religions. This results in an interesting phenomenon in American society. Church attendance and loyalty is on the decline, while interest in spiritual things is on the rise.

The World War II generation was loyal to a fault to their church and denomination. This generation taught Sunday School classes, developed VBS, worked

hard to preserve the faith, and sacrificed to build impressive church structures and worldwide mission organizations. Today's middle-aged and young adults express little denominational or church loyalty. Church attendance is one option among many for a Sunday morning; and you shop for a church about like one shops for a car.

The result of all this is increased tension in our churches. Will this tension result in an outburst of creativity and growth, or will it result in the break down of fellowships? Will the church be renewed, or will near empty church buildings dot our landscape, like in England and Europe?

The answer is, we need to talk about Jesus! If there is going to be renewal in the church, it will come because of what Jesus does among us.

That means the boomers have to let go, and the older generation that gave its life to the development of the church has to let go. In their youth, they liberated. Now, we need them to bring liberation one more time, not by disengaging, but by letting the church be *his* church, not yours or mine.

Baptists assess Turkey earthquake relief

ISTANBUL, Turkey (BP) — Disaster relief assessors arrived in earthquake-stricken Turkey on Aug. 22 to see how Southern Baptists can best help alleviate the suffering of the devastated Turkish people and share with them the good news of God's love.

The assessment team first met with Southern Baptists living in Turkey, then with the larger evangelical community to discuss ways Southern Baptists can provide resources needed for the relief effort.

A massive earthquake measuring 7.8 on the Richter scale

and comfort to those survivors. "We want to show the Turkish people that God loves them and we love them," said Gary Smith of Texas Baptist Men.

Southern Baptists already have committed \$100,000 from hunger relief funds to help the people of Turkey. The assessment team, made up of representatives from Texas Baptist Men, Southern Baptist Disaster Relief, and the International Mission Board, is looking for ways they can provide volunteers, supplies, and money for the relief effort.

Until their work is complete, the most-needed resource is

story buildings are reduced to rubble, with no single stone bigger than a coffee table. The smell of rotting corpses permeates much of the area, where thousands of people lie dead under tons of rock.

Even buildings that didn't collapse have been left so unstable that residents cannot go back inside. To minimize injuries from aftershocks, the government has banned people from re-entering their houses in some areas. This has left more than 200,000 people homeless, living in scattered tent communities that have popped up all over northwestern Turkey.

Three teams from Texas Baptist Men are expected to arrive in Turkey with mobile kitchens Aug. 31 with the hope of beginning to distribute meals two days later. Each mobile kitchen can prepare up to 10,000 meals a day.

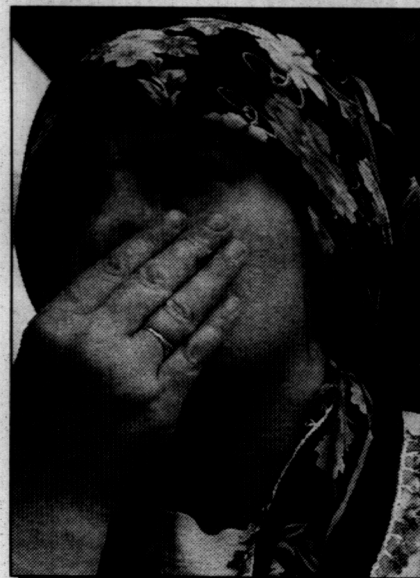
As the assessment team deals with future plans, Southern Baptists who survived the earthquake are reliving the first day of the disaster.

"At the first building I came to, they said there were 70 people trapped inside," said one of those Southern Baptists. "While we were standing there they took a body out. It was a girl and her father brought her out. I guess they had caused enough commotion that someone trapped farther inside starting yelling."

"Their relief effort consisted of five guys with one sledgehammer on top of a pile of concrete. It looked to me like either they were going to hurt themselves or hurt the person inside. After seeing that 40 or 50 times in the space of a couple of hours, it helped me see the extent of the damage."

Two days after the earthquake, Southern Baptists banded together with other evangelicals and began handing out food to the thousands of Turkish people forced into streets by the disaster. The group lost count of the thousands of New Testaments they gave out.

With the help of Southern Baptist hunger relief funds, the members of Hope International Church in Istanbul bought a



STRUGGLING — Fikri Bener tries to hold back the emotions of losing her home and friends. (BP photo)



**THE
SECOND
FRONT PAGE**

**THE BAPTIST
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TO THE RESCUE — Residents of Golcuk, Turkey, and a Turkish rescue team search for earthquake survivors with a jackhammer, sledgehammers, and simple hand tools as they pound their way through concrete slabs that once were the ceilings and floors of a five-story apartment building. (BP photo)

hit the northwestern area of the country Aug. 17. More than 12,000 people have been found dead. Many fear that most of the 35,000 people still listed as missing will eventually be added to that list of dead.

Survivors struggle daily for basics like food and shelter. Southern Baptist assessors are searching for ways to give hope

money to buy relief supplies, said Southern Baptist human needs specialist Jim Brown. Donations designated for Turkey may be sent to Southern Baptist World Relief, P.O. Box 6767, Richmond, VA 23230.

Throughout the areas surrounding Izmit and Golcuk, near the earthquake's epicenter, the destruction is rampant. Six-

water truck to help distribute clean drinking water in some of the cities hardest hit by the quake. Almost a week after one of the most devastating natural disasters in the country's history, most of those cities still have no water or electricity and there are few signs that will change soon.

Southern Baptists in Turkey also have begun hand manufacturing six-person tents, reflecting a shift from meeting immediate needs to addressing long-range concerns.

On Aug. 31, the group will put up 500 tents, one of the most-needed resources.

According to a Southern Baptist strategy coordinator focusing on the Turkish people, the disaster highlights a fatalistic streak in the Turkish culture.

"I expected to find grieving people just huddling around, and I didn't," the strategy coordinator said. "They were just sitting there. They weren't laughing, but they weren't crying either."

Asia seminary changes partners

PENANG, Malaysia (BP) — Trustees of the Asia Baptist Graduate Theological Seminary (ABGTS) voted Aug. 11 to forge a new partnership with Mercer University of Macon, Ga., terminating a 40-year relationship with the International Mission Board (IMB). Trustees of the seminary — actually a consortium of nine Baptist schools located in Asia — voted for the partnership despite controversy surrounding Mercer President R. Kirby Godsey and warnings from IMB leaders in Asia that the board could not participate in the partnership because of Godsey's theology.

Because of the vote, the flow of IMB funds will end and missionary personnel will no longer teach graduate-level courses in the consortium, which was founded in 1960 to provide advanced ministerial training in Asia to students who might otherwise have to come to the United States for training and find themselves reluctant to return to Asia.

In an Aug. 6 letter to consortium trustees, Don Dent, the board's regional leader for Southeast Asia and Oceania, expressed the regional leaders' regret over the prospect of parting ways with the ABGTS.

"You cannot imagine the grief the Mercer proposal has caused in our hearts," Dent wrote in the letter, "we have not taken this stance lightly, but rather after many hours of reflection, prayer, and dialogue together."

IMB had been involved in the consortium since its inception.

Looking back

10 years ago

The morning after being selected Miss Mississippi, Cherry Busby takes the time to read her Bible, as usual. Busby is a member of Calvary Church, Tupelo. Asked about how she deals with the pressures of pageant competition, she says, "Pray about it."

20 years ago

A group of 20 nursing students from the Japan Baptist School of Nursing in Kyoto, Japan, visit William Carey College in Hattiesburg, for two weeks. The purpose of the trip is to familiarize the Japanese students with medical care in the U.S.

50 years ago

Lauderdale Baptists are erecting attractive road signs with lights on the highways entering Meridian. Each 12x35-foot billboard is designed by Vance Collum of Highland Church, Meridian, and all are equipped with an automatic switch that turns the lights on and off.

First Church, Moss Point observes 125th

First Church, Moss Point, will celebrate its 125th anniversary with five days of activities that began with a 12-hour prayer vigil and special service on Sept. 1, and will culminate with a special worship service and covered dish meal on Sept. 5.

On Sept. 2, a mini-revival will be held with Greg Johnston, pastor of Escatawpa Church, Escatawpa, and Jim McEachern, minister of music at Escatawpa Church. On Sept. 3, the mini-revival will continue with Rex Yancey, pastor of First Church, Pascagoula, and Stan Loyd, minister of music at First Church, Pascagoula.

A community gospel sing will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Sept. 4, showcasing talent from local churches.

On Sept. 5, Sunday School will start at 9:45 a.m., followed by morning worship at 10:55 a.m. Former pastor David Lee will lead the worship service. A covered dish meal will be served at noon, followed by an afternoon anniversary service. Former pastor Fred Bueto will lead the anniversary service.

For more information, contact the church at (228) 475-8142.

New Sunday School lesson writers named

The Baptist Record has named new Sunday School lesson writers for the three LifeWay Christian Resources curriculum lines, beginning with the September-November 1999 quarter.

Thomas M. Atwood, pastor of First Church, Oxford, is writing the Life and Work series. Born in Tennessee, Atwood is a graduate of Western Kentucky University and Southern Seminary, Louisville, Ky., with both the Master of Divinity and Doctor of Ministry degrees.

He pastored in Kentucky and Georgia before coming to Oxford in 1994. Atwood and his wife Donna have two children.

Jerry L. Smith, pastor of First Church, Summit, is writing for the Family Bible series. A Mississippi native, Smith graduated from Mississippi



Atwood

State University and earned the Master of Divinity and Doctor of Philosophy degrees from New Orleans Seminary. Smith pastored in Mississippi and Louisiana before being called to Summit in 1997. He and his wife Patty have three children.

Writing for the Explore the Bible series is Sylvia Ann Shackelford Fleming. A native of Philadelphia, Miss., Fleming teaches high school English at Neshoba Central High School. She is currently a member of Bond Church in Neshoba Association, where she aids her elderly mother in getting to and from church, is church pianist, teaches adult Sunday School, and serves as VBS director. Fleming attended Meridian Community College, received the Bachelor of Science degree from Mississippi State



Smith

University and the Masters of Education from The University of Southern Mississippi. She has two adult daughters.

The Baptist Record provides Sunday School lessons as a supplement to the curriculum material available from LifeWay Christian Resources and as a service to readers.

The views expressed by the lesson writers are their own, and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, The Baptist Record, or LifeWay Christian Resources.

Anyone interested in writing Sunday School lessons for The Baptist Record should contact associate editor Carl White at P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone (601) 292-3217, or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 217.



Fleming

Rogers selected to chair BF&M study committee

WAKE FOREST, N.C. (BP)—Adrian Rogers, longtime pastor of historic Bellevue Church in metro Memphis, Tenn., is the chairman of a 15-person committee appointed by Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) President Paige Patterson to study the SBC's Baptist Faith & Message (BF&M) statement.

Authorized by the 1999 annual meeting of the SBC in Atlanta in June, the "blue-ribbon committee" will bring a report to the 2000 annual meeting next June in Orlando, Fla. The Atlanta convention voted 2,327-1,063 to have Patterson appoint the committee, with the only instructions to review the document and report back in 2000.

The BF&M, originally adopted in 1925 and revised in 1963, had its first addition in 1998 at the Salt Lake City annual meeting when a family/marriage article was adopted. Although Southern Baptists have no creed,

the BF&M has generally been seen as an objective statement of the beliefs of the nation's largest evangelical group.

Patterson, president of Southeastern Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C., said the committee will be represented by members from 11 different states.

"It includes seven pastors, one Baptist Student Union director, one state Woman's Missionary Union director, two seminary presidents, three representatives of ethnic fellowships, two women, one layman, three SBC agency directors, and two former convention presidents," Patterson said.

Patterson said he did "not anticipate even beginning to approximate a rewrite of the BF&M."

"Most folks feel, 'If it ain't broke, don't fix it,'" Patterson said, calling the BFM an "undeniably fabulous statement."

"However, the messenger

making the motion believes, and I concur, that every 30 years or so we need to take a look at the statement of faith, not because our faith changes, but because the issues of the day usually dictate some minor revisions to remove ambiguities or address specific issues," Patterson said. Nevertheless, Patterson said the committee would be "free to proceed with whatever recommendations they wish to make."

"I am sure they will enjoy not only my prayer support but that of all Southern Baptists."

T. C. Pinckney, a member of Good News Church, Alexandria, Va., and editor of The Baptist Banner, a Virginia-based conservative journal, made the motion for the study committee. He told the Atlanta convention, "I believe it is appropriate at this time that the BF&M be reviewed and that it be made consistent with the current

stand of the SBC." Patterson appointed him to the committee.

Details of when the committee will meet, how often, and when its report would be ready were not available. A phone call to Rogers at the Bellevue church in Cordova, a suburb of Memphis, was not returned by Baptist Press deadline Aug. 24.

The committee, in addition to Rogers, includes Jerry Vines, pastor of First Church, Jacksonville, Fla.; R. Albert Mohler Jr., president of Southern Seminary, Louisville, Ky., and a member of Highview Church, Louisville; Steve Gaines, pastor of First Church, Gardendale, Ala.; Heather King, state WMU/Women's Ministries director for the State Convention of Baptists in Indiana and member of Northside Church, Indianapolis; Simon Tsoi, pastor of First Chinese Church, Phoenix; T. C. Pinckney, member of Good News Church, Alexandria, Va.; Susie Hawkins, member of Prestonwood Church, Dallas, and wife of SBC Annuity Board President O. S. Hawkins; Charles Kelley Jr., president of New Orleans Seminary and member of First Church, New Orleans; Roger Spradlin, pastor of Valley Church, Bakersfield, Calif.; Richard Land, president of the SBC Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, Nashville, Tenn., and member of First Church, Franklin, Tenn.; Rudy Hernandez, Hispanic Southern Baptist evangelist and member of Primera Iglesia Bautista, Grand Prairie, Texas; Fred Luter, African American pastor of Franklin Avenue Church, New Orleans; Max Barnett, Baptist Student Union director at the University of Oklahoma and member of Trinity Church, Norman, Okla.; and Nelson Price, pastor of Roswell Street Church, Marietta, Ga.

MBCB

The new elevator will be placed next to the existing one where an empty shaft is already in place. Cost is estimated to be \$145,000.

The committee approved sale of three vacant residential lots in Jackson County. The lots were given anonymously for the benefit of Gulfshore Assembly.

Also, two church site properties were approved to be sold:

- Providence Baptist Mission property in Meridian, which failed to develop into a constituted church.

- International Baptist Fellowship (Filipino Mission) property in Gulfport, which now meets in the facility previously occupied by First Church, Mississippi City.

On recommendation of the New Church Expansion Committee, the Executive Committee voted to liquidate two of the board's mobile

chapels which have been deemed no longer usable because of physical deterioration.

The chapels are located at Mt. Comfort Church, Bruce; and at the Hispanic Mission site of Calvary Chapel on Tackett Fish Farms in Mid-Delta Association.

The first will be sold through a mobile home dealer; the second will be given "as is" to Calvary Chapel, Parchman.

The Pastoral-Church Building Aid Committee reported that it had granted a total of \$56,850 to 13 churches and pastors.

The executive committee voted to charge modest fees for capital fundraising services through the Stewardship Department's Challenge to Build program. Cost of a typical campaign, based on a sliding fee schedule, is estimated to be between \$2,000 and \$2,500.

In other business the committee approved acceptance of title of the Baptist Student Center at Pearl River Community College.

The executive committee also

approved board members to fill unexpired terms:

- Mark Jones, pastor, Highland Church, Crystal Springs, Copiah, to replace Hal Hatten who moved;

- Nathan Barber, pastor, Immanuel Church, Hattiesburg, Lamar, to replace Robert Lee who moved;

- Gary Wayne Adams, pastor, Slayden Church, Slayden, Marshall, to replace Jack Gregory who retired and moved;

- Jeff Kolk, pastor, Benoit Church, Benoit, Mid-Delta, to replace Eugene Walden who moved;

- Floyd M. Cooper, pastor, Rena Lara Church, Rena Lara, North Delta, to replace Bruce Willis who moved; and

- Kenneth Donald, layman, First Church, Picayune, Pearl River, to replace Warren (Bud) Barnett who died in March.

Former MC professor to head Texas school

ABILENE, Texas (BP) — Former Mississippi College (MC) English professor W. Craig Turner will assume the office of president of Hardin-Simmons University (HSU) on June 1, 2001, when Lanny Hall has indicated he will step down from the office to assume the role of chancellor, according to a "Presidential Succession Plan" unanimously approved by trustees Aug. 19 in a special meeting in Abilene, Texas.

According to a statement issued by HSU trustee chair Tina Hunter, Turner, 52, will continue to serve as the 2,300-student, Baptist-affiliated university's executive vice president and chief academic officer during the current academic year. Beginning on June 1, 2000, he will also assume the role of chief operating officer.



Turner

Hall, 49, has served as HSU president since 1991 and, as chancellor, will continue to work for the university in a fund-raising and teaching role, Hunter said. Hall will succeed Jesse C. Fletcher as chancellor, with Fletcher moving to the position of president emeritus in 2001, the trustee chair said.

Hunter, in her statement, said it is "a logical and prudent plan" for Turner to succeed Hall. Rather than follow the "traditional road to find a president" by forming a search committee, Hunter recounted, "... why should we? We have the best man (Craig Turner) for the position right here on the campus. You know him well."

Hall said, "In an effort to ensure a seamless and orderly transition, I strongly recommended that Dr. Turner succeed me. He will make an outstanding president — a position for which he is uniquely prepared. He is a scholar, a talented academic leader, and a gifted administrator."

Turner joined HSU in 1992 as vice president for academic affairs. Since 1996, he has served as executive vice president and

chief academic officer. Currently he oversees the major university functions of enrollment services, information management, planning, and academic affairs.

At the time he joined HSU, Turner was head of the English department and professor of English at Mississippi College in Clinton. Turner's 28-year career in teaching and administration has included service at six universities — Hardin-Simmons University, Mississippi College, Texas A&M, Baylor University, Tulane University, and Sam Houston State University.

Turner has edited three books and authored numerous articles and professional papers. He was honored in 1992 with the Alpha Chi-Faculty Council Distinguished Professor Award at Mississippi College.

A native of Mobile, Ala., he holds a Ph.D. from Tulane University in 19th-century British and America literature and B.A. and M.A. degrees from Baylor.

Turner and his wife, Annette, a first-grade teacher at Dyess Elementary School in Abilene, have two children: Scott, who works for an advertising firm in Austin; and Shannon, a law student at the University of Texas.

The Turners are active members of Pioneer



Hall

Drive Church where he teaches a Bible class.

Turner said, "I am humbled and grateful that the board of trustees has seen fit to offer me the opportunity to succeed Dr. Lanny Hall in serving as the 14th president of Hardin-Simmons University. I have been privileged for the past seven years to work with a dedicated faculty and staff under the dynamic leadership of Dr. Hall and the direction and support of a committed board of trustees. Together with a great student body, Dr. Hall, the trustees, and faculty and staff have prepared HSU for its greatest days as we enter the 21st century. Annette and I feel very blessed that God has led us to serve Hardin-Simmons at this point in its history."

Hunter, in her statement, said, "I have no doubt that it is the leadership and guidance of the Holy Spirit that has led us to this decision."

MBTS trustees to meet Sept. 13-14

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (BP) — Trustees of Midwestern Seminary (MBTS) will meet Sept. 13-14 in a special meeting to discuss questions surrounding the leadership of President Mark Coppenger.

A trustee, who asked not to be identified, told Baptist Press 15 trustees had signed a request for a special board meeting to deal with the Coppenger matter but gave no further explanation. Only 10 trustees, out of a total of 35, are required to ask for a special meeting, he said. The two-day meeting will be at a hotel near the Kansas City airport.

A previously scheduled Aug. 26-27 trustee executive committee meeting has been canceled.

A trustee spokesman said although the Sept. 13-14 meeting was specifically dealing with Coppenger and the matter of "misappropriation of anger," the board has asked the seminary legal counsel whether other items may also be discussed at the meeting. If the trustees' regularly scheduled meeting Oct. 18-19 is held, it would require two trips to Kansas City barely a month apart for trustees.

Another trustee, who also asked not to be identified, said in addition trustees will hear that enrollment this fall appears to be down about 20 percent from last year and some have questions regarding budgetary and financial matters. Some trustees, he said, who are not on the executive committee, want to hear about the matter personally while some feel the matter has been blown out of proportion.

Trustee leadership tried to schedule a special board meeting Sept. 2-3 in Kansas City but the dates apparently didn't work out, a trustee told Baptist Press Aug. 20.

A spokesperson for President Coppenger said he would not comment on the called board meeting.

The seminary's trustee executive committee voted July 30 on specific recommendations or steps to repentance and restoration by Coppenger to take following his expression of repentance for "misappropriation of anger."

Trustee chairman Carl Weiser said at the time the "committee is prayerful that the exercise of the biblical process will serve as an example to the students, faculty and trustees of Midwestern and others." Weiser is pastor of Hyland Heights Church, Lynchburg, Va.

KUDZU CHRISTIANS

A while back some friends of my family came from Texas to visit us in Jackson. Driving across from Vicksburg to the capital they saw all this green vegetation on the side of the road. It was everywhere — all over the hills and up into the trees. They had never seen anything like it. "What is it?" they wanted to know.

Of course, any Mississippian would have this ready response: "It's kudzu, a leafy vine that dies out in the winter and grows like crazy in the summer."

They then asked, "What's it good for? Does it produce any fruit?" We replied, "No, it doesn't produce any fruit or vegetable, and to be honest with you, it's just not worth very much. You can't bale it for hay. You can't eat it. In fact, I think about the only thing that kudzu does is take up a spot of ground and keeps that dirt from being washed away. Even as it is doing that, it may so entangle a tree that it chokes the life from



Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

it, which means that in taking up its place it may ruin somebody else's place."

My friends listened and looked at me strangely and wondered aloud, "Why would you want to keep that stuff around?" I could not answer that question and since I am not the president of the Kudzu Conservation Club, I just shrugged and said, "It's just one of those things that grows around here."

Some time later, as I reflected on the conversation, I began to think about this big, unproductive plant and I thought what a parable it was of so many of our Christian experiences.

When things are good,

kudzu grows like crazy. More than we would want to admit, that may describe some of us and our relationship to the Lord: "Give me the good times, the sunny days, the warm experiences, the gentle rains, and the soft summer breezes of spiritual environment and I will grow!"

I have read where some kudzu plants grow as much as a foot a day! How many of us want God to know that if he will just keep life easy and breezy, then we will put on foliage, look good, and grow!

While kudzu grows a lot, it doesn't produce anything that is useful to people. Kudzu looks like the fig tree that Jesus

examined and then cursed because it produced no fruit. I am fairly certain that Jesus was not talking about kudzu when he said, "By their fruit ye shall know them," but here is a plant that provides no berries to eat and no blessings to bestow. It takes up ground, soaks up water, absorbs sunshine, and gives little.

Finally, for many years I have watched as the first chilly nights of fall come and the slightest hint of a frost puts kudzu "out of business." When conditions are not perfect, kudzu withers up and is gone.

It reminds me of the thousands who followed Jesus and enjoyed his miracle working power as he fed the five thousand, and then after they were filled and the day was over they disappeared. It was at that moment that Jesus asked the disciples, "Will you go away also?"

Regrettably, too many of us have adopted a "Kudzu Christian Lifestyle," and you can hear, faintly in the background, the voice of Jesus asking, "Will you go away also?"

JUST FOR THE RECORD

Heart Strings of Hope, a women's conference with Renee Coates Scheidt, will be presented by the Women's Enrichment Ministry at Broadmoor Church, Jackson, on Oct. 1 and 2. The cost of \$25 will include registration fee, dinner on Friday evening, and conference materials. Call the church office at (601) 366-8433 to register. The deadline to register is Sept. 26.

Rolling Hills Church, Carriere, will celebrate its 10th anniversary on Sept. 12.

Worship services will begin at 10:30 a.m. G. A. McCoy, Carriere, will preach the morning sermon. John Hill, missionary who helped start the church, will also speak. Lunch will be served in the fellowship hall. Afternoon worship service will commence around 1:15 p.m. On program for the afternoon service will be Ken Rhodes, director of missions for the Pearl River Association, and preaching by Brad Arnett. Kyle Jones is pastor. For more information, call (601) 796-2129.

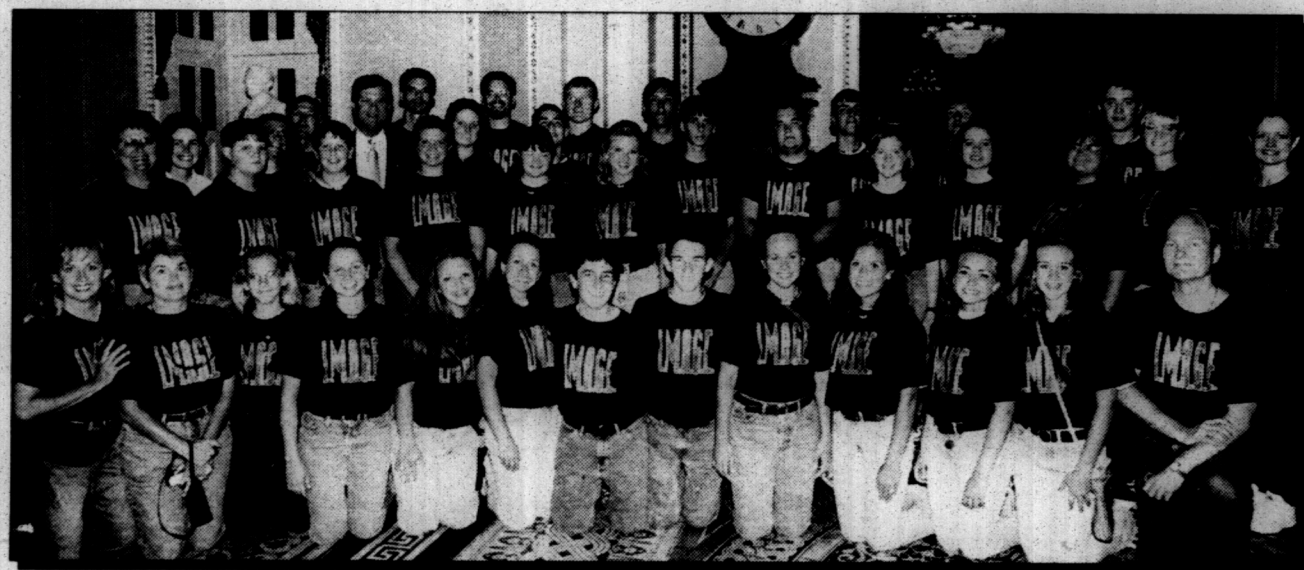


1999 Garaywa counselors

Summer counselors at Camp Garaywa in Clinton included (from left, front row): Margie Tillman, Hattiesburg, University of Southern Mississippi (USM); Anna Bove, Natchez, USM; Dianna McDougal, Vicksburg, Hinds Community College (HCC); Pamela Jones, Morton, East Central Community College; Naomi Upton, Brandon, William Carey College (WCC); Rachel Brown, Agricola, WCC; Rachel Michel, Brandon, Mississippi College (MC); April Taylor, Pontotoc, a Blue Mountain College graduate, (second row) Robin Keels, camp director; Erin Black, Senatobia, MC; Miranda Tebo, Hattiesburg, USM; Anna Stewart, Pascagoula, Mississippi State University (MSU); Loryn Davis, Clinton, USM graduate; Melissa Edwards, Jackson, HCC; Melinda Ulmer, Magee, Copiah-Lincoln Community College; Andrea Means, Puckett, Shorter College, (third row) Cristy Gilbert, Brandon, WCC; Chandra Mamie, Powhatan Point, Ohio, Campbellsville University; Kim Wade, Laurel, USM; Christy Siedell, Gautier, USM; Gwen Culpepper, Brandon, HCC; Amanda Abel, Hattiesburg, USM; Jody Ferguson, Bruce, MSU; Alisha Gholston, Fulton, MSU, (fourth row) Heather Booth, assistant director, Amory, Southwestern Seminary; Candy Mitchell, Smithdale, WCC; Erin Dill, Port Gibson, MSU; Jessica Johnson, Liberty, USM; Crystal Simmons, Pearl, HCC; Brooke Gray, Tupelo, Northeast Mississippi

Community College; Laura Davis, Picayune, Pearl River Community College, (fifth row) Bobbye Hope Cox, Bogue Chitto, Southwest Mississippi Community College; Mary Margaret Ferrell, Hattiesburg, USM; Pam Thomas, Agricola, WCC; Jill Meechum, Brookhaven, MC; Lesley Guernsey, Destin, Fla., USM; Stephanie Stringer, Foxworth, WCC; Sara Joy Gannon, Pearl, HCC. Camp Garaywa offers Christian camping experiences for about 2,000 girls in grades three through six. The Mississippi Baptist Woman's Missionary Union operates Camp Garaywa.

First Church and Kittiwake Church of Pass Christian will have a Labor Day dinner on the grounds, 12 noon, Sept. 5, at Kittiwake Church. This will begin eight weeks of Bible distribution throughout the community. A celebration to conclude the distribution with "Church in the Pass Christian Park" will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Oct. 31.



Youth choir of Liberty Church, Liberty, recently returned from a tour to Washington, D.C. While in Washington, the choir sang on the steps of the capitol. They also sang the musical, "Image" in churches in Decatur, Ala.; Jefferson City, Tenn.; and Lower Burrell, Pennsylvania; Huntington, W. Va.; Louisville, Ky.; Hueytown, Ala.; and Liberty Church, their home church. One profession of faith of a middle-aged man and one rededication was reported on the tour. Congressman Ronnie Shows presented an American flag flown over the capitol in honor of the veterans of Liberty Church. Senator Trent Lott is pictured with the group. Danny Von Kanel is minister of music. Martin Hayden is pastor.



A total of 19 college and seminary students spent the month of June leading six youth conferences at Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, Pass Christian. Each faculty member taught a Bible study class of approximately 20 teenagers. Of the nearly 3,000 in attendance at the youth conferences, 152 came to know Jesus Christ as their personal savior. The faculty members (from left), their schools, and hometowns are: (front row) Michelle Vines, University of Southern Mississippi (USM), Woodville; Jennifer Adams, Mississippi State University (MSU), Brandon; Mandy Trammell, William Carey College (WCC), Florence; Karrah Goar, Mississippi College (MC), Richton; Jency Plunkett, MSU, Aberdeen, (second row) Jackie McLaughlin, MC, Meridian; Erin Harvey, University of Mississippi (UM), Kosciusko; Julie Connerley, MSU, Brownsville, Tenn.; Casey Selph, MC, Olive Branch; Elizabeth Didlake, MC, Brandon; Reid Vance, New Orleans Seminary (NOBTS), Canton (third row) Grant Stegall, MC, Pontotoc; Ben Skipper, NOBTS, Shuqulak; Clay Stegall, NOBTS, Pontotoc; Nathan Taylor, MSU, Laurel; Ashley Moseley, MC, Magee; Vince Martin, NOBTS, Canton; and Wesley Hughes, MSU, Pearl.

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What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

HOUSE TOPS.

Matthew 10:27

September 2, 1999

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Office of Communication.

GAMBLING WITH AMERICA'S FUTURE

September 24-26, 1999

The Hilton Hotel and
Conference Center
Jackson, Mississippi



The Sixth Annual Meeting of the National Coalition AGAINST Gambling and the National Coalition AGAINST Gambling Expansion

Program Personalities

The annual meeting of NCALG and NCAGE will attract some of America's leading authorities on the problems, politics, and personalities of gambling in America. Speakers who have accepted invitations include:

- **Kay James**, chairperson of the National Gambling Impact Study Commission
- **Professor Phil Cook**, Duke University economics professor and co-author of *Selling Hope: State Lotteries In America*

- **Ben Toledano**, attorney and prolific author on gambling
- **Trish Arndt**, attorney and authority on Indian gambling
- **Larry Braidfoot**, founding executive director of NCALG and social ethicist

These other experts on gambling in America:

Diane Berlin
John Eades
Tom Grey
Dan Ireland
Paul Jones
Larry Page
Barbara Knickelbein

Registration Form: Please detach and mail with check payable to NCALG
(Please type or print clearly)

FULL NAME _____
ORGANIZATION (if applicable) _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____
PHONE (daytime) _____ FAX _____
DO YOU HAVE SPECIAL DIETARY NEEDS? IF SO,
PLEASE INDICATE _____

Please check the appropriate registration fee:

		# People	
Full Conference fee (includes Friday banquet and Saturday dinner) @ \$95	\$ _____ x _____	= \$ _____	
One day only fee (circle day):			
Friday Saturday Sunday @ \$45	\$ _____ x _____	= \$ _____	
Student @ \$50	\$ _____ x _____	= \$ _____	
Student (one day rate) @ \$25	\$ _____ x _____	= \$ _____	
Friday night banquet @ \$25	\$ _____ x _____	= \$ _____	
Saturday noon dinner @ \$25	\$ _____ x _____	= \$ _____	
TOTAL \$ _____			

Enclose check payable to and mail to: NCALG, 831 South King Street, Suite E, Leesburg, VA 20175-3903, 703-443-9362, 1-800-664-2680, www.ncalg.org
Christian Action Commission, MBCB 1-601-968-3800, 1-800-748-1651

Lay Missions Conference

INTEGRITY In Your Marketplace
Does It Make a Difference?

Monday, October 25, 1999

First Baptist Church, Brandon

\$8.50 per person

**Interest
Conferences**
3 p.m.

- Agricultural Missions
- Partnership Missions
- Educational Missions
- Volunteers in Missions
- Construction Projects
- Integrity in your Marketplace

Keynote Speaker
Hon. Charles Pickering, Sr.
United States District Judge

Special Music
THE ARK SINGERS
from Ukraine

Missions Banquet 5 p.m.

REGISTRATION FORM

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ Zip _____
Phone _____
Enclosed: \$ _____ for _____ dinner reservations @ \$8.50 ea.

MAIL TO: MEN'S MINISTRY DEPARTMENT, MBCB, MISSIONS BANQUET
PO Box 530, JACKSON, MS 39205-0530



Women's Retreat
October 22-23

Gulfshore Baptist Assembly

Look for details
in upcoming Baptist Record.

"When Gifts are Transformed"

Pastor Staff RECOGNITION

Recognition and affirmation are critically important to each of us. How easy it is to give appreciation, and how meaningful it is to be the recipient of affirmation. And yet, how often we take our spiritual leaders for granted and forget to say, "Thank you."

A survey by CLSD of LifeWay revealed only 17% of pastors receive any kind of annual recognition. Less than 17% of staff members received some recognition.

WHO SHOULD YOU RECOGNIZE?

- Pastor
- Staff
 - ministerial staff members
 - secretarial and support staff
 - all employees of the church
 - retirees, emeritus leaders, etc.

WHEN SHOULD YOU HAVE THE RECOGNITION?

- The pastor and staff anniversaries with the church
- Pastor and staff's birthdays
- National Clergy Recognition (usually in October)
- Other times deemed appropriate by church
- Significant milestones and accomplishments

For more information or brochures on Pastor/Staff Recognition contact the
Church Administration - Pastoral Ministries Department
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board
968-3800 or 1-800-748-1651

Sunday School Leadership Training

**Two great training
opportunities now
in two locations!**

"Gulfshore North"
September 10-11
Calvary Baptist Church
Tupelo

Special Guests:
David Grumbach
David Prevost
Blue Mountain BSU Drama Team

For information
contact the Sunday School Department, MBCB
601-968-3800 or 1-800-748-1651

"Glorieta on the Gulf"
September 17-18
First Baptist Church
Gulfport

Preschool Electives

Preschool Policies and Procedures
Planning for Ministry for Preschoolers
Preschool Learning Centers and
Activities

Children Electives

Talking with Children about Salvation
Tomorrow's Child - How to Connect &
Have Fun with Children
Teaching Children Sundays and Beyond

Youth Electives

Fast Food Frenzy: Ideas for Fellowship
and Outreach Through Youth
Sunday School
The Road Game: Ways to Do Youth Bible
Study Other Than Sunday Morning
It's a Family Thing: Suggestions On
Involving Parents in Sunday School

Adult Electives

Ministering to Young Adults
Ministering to Median Adults
Ministering to Senior Adults
Reaching Through Evangelism and
Caring in the Sunday School
Reaching Through Discipleship in the
Sunday School (Teaching)
Reaching Through Fellowship and
Worship in the Sunday School

General Officers

Designing Your Sunday School for the
21st Century

Pastors

Developing Vision and Strategy for the
21st Century

Gulfshore North Registration Form

Name _____
Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Daytime Phone Number _____
Church Name _____ # of persons attending conference _____
of persons attending dinner on Friday night _____ (Cost: \$5 per person)
Amount enclosed \$ _____
Registration is due by September 7th with applicable meal payment.
Complete form and mail to: Sunday School Department, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530
No child care provided.

Gulfshore North is A Ministry of Your Cooperative Program, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board
601-968-3800 1-800-748-1651 www.mbc.org

For information or to register for Glorieta on the Gulf, call or write:
Gulf Coast Baptist Association, P.O. Box 2369, Gulfport, MS 39505, 228-832-4311

Sponsored by:
Gulf Coast Baptist Association, Jackson County Baptist Association
Pearl River Baptist Association, Sunday School Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

A Ministry of Your Cooperative Program, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

COLLEGE STUDENT CONFERENCE



Colonial Heights
Baptist Church, Jackson
September 24-25, 1999

Program Personalities

- Dennis Lee, drama
- Debbie Wohler, Lake Tahoe missionary
- Chuck Bentley, musician
- Darko Velichkovski, Mississippi Symphony Orchestra

WMU/Habitat Community Project "Building West Park with love"



THANK YOU!

A special thank you to all of you who participated in and supported the WMU Habitat Project. "Building West Park with Love" was a life changing event for all.

Thank you,
State WMU Staff

ONE DAY MISSION TOUR of Delta Ministries October 12

For more info
contact
Tammy Anderson
WMU
1-800-748-1651 or
601-292-3323

Metro Jackson INTERFAITH EVANGELISM Awareness Conference on Judaism and Roman Catholicism



September 16
7 - 9 p.m.

Broadmoor Baptist Church, Jackson
787 East Northside Drive



Jim Sibley
National Coordinator
of Jewish Ministries
NAMB, Dallas

Bill Gordon
Interfaith Evangelism
Associate
NAMB, Atlanta



Sponsored by MBCB Evangelism Department and Metro Baptist Association
For more information, contact Ed Deuschle at 968-3800, ext. 224



YOUTH EVANGELISM CONFERENCE

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 31, 1999

A.E. WOOD COLISEUM - MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE

COST: \$5

REGISTRATION: BEGINS AT 11 A.M.

PROGRAM: 1 P.M. UNTIL MIDNIGHT

FEATURING:

- DENNIS LEE
- JIM FUTRAL
- SCOTT CRENSHAW
- KEVIN WILLIAMS
- DANNY LANIER
- MATT FORE

Join together with
teenagers across the state
to bring in the NEW
MILLENNIUM.

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* Dalcroze is a method for teaching rhythm. Tim Waugh is a master teacher of Dalcroze choirs and handbells, integrating the disciplines to produce more confident singers and ringers.

For more information call the Church Music Dept., MBCB, 601-968-3800 or 1-800-748-1651

Led by Tim Waugh
November 12 & 13
Parkway Baptist Church
Clinton

Pray this day for...

Sept 3 - 16, 1999

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Begin the Day With God

"Do not have your concert first. then tune your instruments afterwards. Begin the day with the Word of God and prayer. and get first of all in harmony with Him." --Hudson Taylor

For Discipleship Training Launch Day (Discipleship & Family Ministry Emphasis), Sunday School Launch Preparation Week, 5th-12th (Sunday School Emphasis).

For (1) Sunday School Launch day (Sunday School Emphasis), (2) Season of Prayer and Giving for State Missions (WMU Emphasis), (3) Aurelio Vallejo is a Messenger of the Word in Fontana, Calif. Pray for Aurelio as he plants churches.

Labor Day—(1) As working people are honored on this day, pray that their example will motivate lazy people to get jobs so they can help themselves as well as our entire society. (2) Pray for Baptist Building Staff Planning Week, 6th-10th.

Clyde Billingsley is a multiethnic church planting state director working for the Montana Southern Baptist Fellowship. Pray for him as he works to start churches. Pray for 23 Montana churches that do not have pastors.

Several million expatriate Iranians are scattered around the world. Many are being saved and desire to return to their homeland to evangelize fellow Muslim Iranians. Pray that these converts will be used of God to bring about indigenous church plantings in Iran.

Registration is required for churches in Cambodia, but only a small number are allowed to be registered each year. Pray for the Cambodia Baptist Convention churches and their pastors as they seek God's wisdom in this matter.

Pray for Philip Griggs as he seeks to start more Bible studies with men who are members of the Rotary Club in Cagayan de Oro City, Philippines. Pray that many who attend the Bible studies will receive Christ into their hearts and lives.

For "See You at the Pole" (Evangelism Emphasis). This is when groups of Christian students gather at flag poles at schools to pray. Pray that these gatherings will have an influence on all who observe them.

Ethnic violence has been occurring on the island of Ambon—a traditionally Christian area of Indonesia. Pray for Ambon, that the Christians will seek strength from the Lord to rejoice in suffering and will bear a faithful witness for Christ.

For New Staff Day and DOM Update, Baptist Building (Exec/MEAA). (2) Pray for the church in Dagestan, North Caucasus, as they plan to send workers to establish a new church in four other cities this year.

Martha Moore, who is currently in language study in Cloppenburg, Germany, asks you to pray that the Lord will give wisdom as she determines the best city and campus for her student evangelism ministry.

Kim Paden has begun evangelistic teas for Lithuanian Christian women in Riese. Each woman receives two tickets for the tea—the second ticket is an invitation for a lost friend. They cannot attend the tea without this friend. Pray that many unsaved women will hear the gospel.

(1) Women on Mission Retreat, Lake Stephens, Oxford (WMU). (2) Handbell Leadership Seminar, Ridgecrest BC, Madison (Church Music). (3) September Sunday School Gulfshore North Training Conference, Calvary BC, Tupelo (Sunday School).

The crime rate in counties with casinos is eight percent higher than average. The cost of casino-related crime has jumped to at least \$61 per adult. Pray that Mississippi officials will see the full cost of gambling and let voters decide whether or not casinos should continue in our state.

Take a moment to send a card to encourage the children of our missionaries!

1-93
MISS CAITLYN BRASWELL
Caixa Postal 61, 89.802-970 Chapeco, SC, BRAZIL
Parents: Larry & Alicia, General Evangelism

4-81
MISS LUCY GRAVES
914 Reed Road, Starkville, MS 39759
Parents: Eddie & Marilyn, General Evangelism
SERVE IN WESTERN S. AMERICA

4-94
MISS ALICIA MARTIN
Casilla 2568, San Cruz, BOLIVIA
Parents: William & Cynthia, Strategy

5-85
MISS BETHANY FORTENBERRY
P O Box 228, Lobatse, BOTSWANA
Parents: Robert & Margaret, General Evangelism

8-91
MR. JACOB LIGHTSEY
VIP SAL #731, P O Box 52-5364, Miami, FL 33152-5364
Parents: Timothy & Rebecca, Literature Distributions/Promotion
SERVE IN MIDDLE AMERICA

11-97
MR. JONATHAN HARBIN
Rua Carlos von Koseritz, 1211, Apt. 502, Auxiliadora 90540-031 Porto Alegre, RS, BRAZIL
Parents: Christopher & Keren, Theological Education

13-84
MR. PAUL HARRISON
Apartado 373, San Pedro Sula, HONDURAS
Parents: Frank, & Phoebe, Student Evangelism

14-83
MISS EVA CARLISLE
1804 Cedarglen Rd., Richmond, VA 23233
Parents: Jason & Susan, General Evangelism
MC/FIELD ASSIGNMENT - US

15-96
MISS MARISSA BLEDSOE
Rua Barbosa da Cunha 138, 13073-320, Campinas SP, BRAZIL
Parents: David & Laurie, General Evangelism

16-86
MR. NATHANIEL CARLISLE
1804 Cedarglen Rd., Richmond, VA 23233
Parents: Jason & Susan, General Evangelism
MC/FIELD ASSIGNMENT - US

16-89
MR. DAVID BUSH
B.P. 15, Kenieba MALI
Parents: Karl & Lena, Community Outreach

21-86
MR. GREG RUMSEY
4527 A Seminary Place, New Orleans, LA 70126
Parents: David & Pamela K., Field Personnel Assistance



27-85
MISS STACIA COREY
7336 Anela Place, Diamondhead, MS 39520
Parents: Charles & Patricia, Field Personnel Assistance

28-88
MISS LINDSEY PURL
Mission Baptiste, 01 BP 580, Ouagadougou 01, BURKINA FASO
Parents: John & Amy, Financial Administration

STAFF CHANGES

First Church, Houka, has called **David Blackwell** as pastor effective Aug. 1. He is a graduate of Mid-South Bible College and Mid-America Theological Seminary in Memphis. He previously served at Pleasant Ridge Church, Dumas.



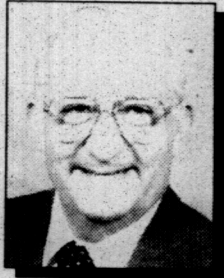
Blackwell

Wayne Miley, pastor of Midway Church, Newton, since January of 1992, resigned on Aug. 15, effective Sept. 30. He will be available for pulpit supply or revivals after Sept. 30 and may be reached at (601) 683-6640 or (601) 961-7472.

New Hope Church, Coffeeville, has called **William C. Vance** as pastor effective in July. A native of Holcomb, Vance received his education at Liberty Baptist University and Oxford Baptist Institute. His previous place of service was Valley Hill Church, Greenwood.

Ben Caston, native of Liberty, has accepted a position as minister of music at Oak Park Church in New Orleans. Caston is a graduate of Southwest Community College, William Carey College, and New Orleans Seminary (NOBTS). He is currently pursuing the Doctor of Musical Arts at NOBTS. He previously served as minister of music and senior adults at Roseland Park Church, Picayune.

Floyd F. Higginbotham retired after serving for 15 years at Pleasant Hill Church, Bogu Chitto, and in the ministry for 47 years. A celebration service was held for him and his wife, Effie, at Pleasant Hill Church on Aug. 28. A reception was held on Sunday, Aug. 29.



Higginbotham

Bob O'Neal retired from Auburn Church, Tupelo, on May 2. His retirement became effective on June 1. A reception was held for him and his family on May 16. O'Neal was called to Auburn Church on Jan. 31, 1988. Other churches he pastored in Mississippi were New Jerusalem, Carrollton; Minter City; Alexander Memorial, Greenville; and Lena.

James Rutledge has resigned his pastorate at

Splunge Church in Monroe County, effective Sept. 1. He has also pastored churches in Pontotoc, Union, and Winston associations. Rutledge is available for interim and supply work. He can be reached in Amory at (601) 256-9780.



Rutledge

HOMEcomings

New Prospect, Brookhaven: Sept. 12; services, 11 a.m. and 1:15 p.m.; James E. Watts, former pastor, Morton, guest speaker; Ruth Owens, music; Myra Thurman, pianist, and Camille Grim, organist; gospel singing by Thomas and Willa Moak.

Belden (Lee): Sept. 26; worship services, 8:30 and 10:30 a.m.; Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.; lunch following 10:30 a.m. ser-

vice; Landmarks in concert at 7 p.m.; Don Baggett, pastor.

REVIVAL DATES

Bovina, Vicksburg: Sept. 12-15; services, 7 p.m.; Michael Mason, evangelist; Phillip Willis, music.

19-22; Sunday, 11 a.m., meal, and afternoon service; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Steve Jackson, Pearl, guest speaker; Eric McNair, music; Wayne Long, pastor.

Melrose, Bentonia: Sept.

BAPTIST COLLEGE NEWS

Mississippi College's Art Department is featuring assistant professor, Steve Cook, in an exhibition of his works in the Samuel Marshall Gore Art Gallery of Aven Hall. The exhibit will run

through Sept. 23, and can be seen Monday through Friday between the hours of 8 a.m.-2 p.m. Call (601) 925-3231 for more information. A reception will be held on Sept. 12 from 2-4 p.m.

James Mitchell of Hattiesburg, a graduate of William Carey College with a degree in theatre, was awarded the prestigious Rotary Ambassadorial Fellowship, according to the Rotary Foundation of Rotary International. The scholarship will allow him to attend any school in the world with all expenses paid for one year. He chose to go to the University of Glasgow, Scotland, where he will study dramaturgy.



Mitchell

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1999 Central Hills staff



1999 Central Hills staff included (front row, from left): Tim Bailey, Lucedale; Steve Massey, Morton; Bryan Goza, Brookhaven; Tim Parker, Bruce; Joey Brown, Fulton; Michael Phillips, Greenwood; (second row) Peggy Wasson-Tyler, Kosciusko; Tolly Pinkard, Kosciusko; (third row) Janice Parks, Kosciusko; Brenda Hutchinson, Kosciusko; Bessie Windom, Kosciusko; Pearl Veasley, Kosciusko; Darryl Weatherby, Sallis; Doreatha Love, West; Joe Smith, Morton; Irene Smith, Morton; (fourth row) Carl Johnson, Kosciusko; Dan West, Kosciusko; Josh Heath, Winona; Melba Nelson, Monticello; Jason Sims, Kosciusko; (fifth row) Euel Nelson, Monticello; Lex Hester, Tupelo; Brian Lindsey, Madison; Mark E. Gipson, Jackson; Jeremy Lawson, Dumas; Steve Scianna, Picayune; Michael Winstead, Morton; Jason Robertson, Starkville; (sixth row) Calab Howell, Lucedale; Jason Davis, Jackson; Will Sharp, New Hebron; Carlton Brady, Slidell, La.; Josh Sicotte, Long Beach; "Buzz" Busby, Biggersville; Stan Pickering, Laurel; Jon Nunley, Indianola; Nab Johnson, Nettleton; Jarred Lee, Magee.

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Constitution's anniversary to be celebrated

The members of the Mississippi State Society, Daughters of the American Revolution, have requested that Mississippi Baptist churches join them during the week of Sept. 17-23 in celebrating the 212th anniversary of the signing of the U.S. Constitution and the religious freedoms afforded Americans by the country's guiding document. Jaunita Messner, chair of the group's Constitution Week Committee, suggested that churches note the anniversary in newsletters, orders of service, bulletins, and other materials. For more information, contact Messner at 311 Southbrook Drive, Jackson, MS 39211. Telephone: (601) 956-6459.

Court ruling clarifies voter guide handouts

WASHINGTON (ABP) — A decision by a federal court clearing the Christian Coalition of all but two counts of violating election laws has left organization officials and its critics at odds over whether the coalition's voter guides may be distributed in churches.

The Aug. 2 ruling ends a three-year dispute between the Federal Election Commission (FEC) and the conservative Christian advocacy group, but Marcus Owens, director of the Internal Revenue Service's (IRS) Exempt Organizations Division, said the ruling deals narrowly with federal election laws. Churches should not look to rulings on election laws for guidance on compliance with federal tax laws, he said. "Election laws and tax laws are different sets of rules."

Federal campaign laws prohibit corporations from making contributions — in cash or in kind — to a candidate for federal office, but they permit independent expenditures that are related to a campaign, so long as it is not for communications that expressly advocate the election or defeat of a candidate.

U.S. District Judge Joyce Hens Green ruled that in all but two instances the coalition steered clear of expressly advocating the election or defeat of a candidate for federal office or from coordinating expenditures on voter guides and get-out-the-vote efforts.

Tax laws apply "when there is campaign intervention, and that intervention can be direct or indirect," Owens said. "The IRS looks behind an action to see whether it is

being done in a way to influence a campaign." He said the timing of the voter guides as well as the breadth of the issues covered in the guides are important to determining whether they violate tax law.

"A good rule of thumb is for churches to stand back and ask could this action — whatever it is — be reasonably interpreted as endorsing or opposing a candidate?" Owens said. "If that's the message that is being delivered, the church ought to be aware of the prohibitions."

In ruling against the coalition for supporting the election of Gingrich in 1994, Green said the Georgia affiliate of the Christian Coalition did cross the line into express advocacy in a letter to coalition supporters.

"The unmistakable meaning of the letter is that because Newt Gingrich has voted as

the coalition would have wanted him to on every vote the coalition considered significant, the reader should vote for him in the primary election," Green ruled.

AAEO goal reached



Walnut Grove Church, Walnut Grove, reached its goal of \$1,500 for Annie Armstrong Easter Offering. Pictured are Dennis Wells, pastor; and Frances Rogers, WMU director. Leon Young is chairman of deacons.

NAMES IN THE NEWS



Jimmy and Teresa Morris of Parks Church, Drew, were commissioned recently as Area 3 Coordinators for Mississippi Volunteers in Missions (VIM). Clayton Crouch, pastor of Parks Church, delivered the message. Pictured (from left) are Sidney and Margaret Pitts, State VIM coordinators; Teresa Morris; Jimmy Morris; and Truman Scarborough, director of missions for North Central Association.

Grant Arinder, pastor of First Church, Belzoni, recently earned his Doctor of Ministry degree from Samford University's Beeson Divinity School.



Arinder

Patsy Henry, who recently retired at First Church, Carthage, was honored with a reception on July 18. She was church secretary for 23 years. Pictured with Henry are Philip Marler, (left) chairman of deacons; and Eddie Hamilton, (right) former pastor and now interim pastor.



Marler, Henry, and Hamilton

Tony Johnson was ordained to the ministry by First Church of Sharon, Laurel, on July 25. Johnson is pastor of Mt. Nebo Church near Bay Springs. The ordination service was followed by a reception.



Johnson

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STAY WITH RIGHT CROWD

Editor:

When growing up in rural Newton County we children knew that our parents were strict concerning our behavior. Papa had a saying, "You are judged by the company you keep."

My folks never looked down on folks because of their lifestyle, like being poorer or not having a lifestyle that they condoned.

Papa and Mama would try to raise us kids to behave ourselves at home and away from home.

Often we found other attractions that did not actually meet their approval, like when there was going to be a dance at one of the neighbors' houses.

My two teenage sisters would beg for permission to go. I've heard them say, "The other kids go, why can't we?" Papa would say, "Do you want to go to hell just because they do?"

There is a right crowd and a wrong crowd. It's easy to go from the right crowd to the wrong crowd, but it's hard to turn from the wrong crowd to the right one.

It's like a disease. It's harder to heal the disease than it is to catch it.

In the book of Galatians we read, "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that he shall also reap. For he that soweth to the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting." (Gal. 6:7-8).

Tom Walden
Jackson

SEEKING CLARKE ALUMS

Editor:

I serve on the planning committee for our 150th year anniversary at Poplar Springs Church, Newton, to be held on Oct. 10.

We are searching for people who were students at Clarke College and came to Poplar Springs Church during those

years. Poplar Springs Church has had several former pastors who were professors at Clarke, such as Bryce Evans and James Spencer. We want to enlist your help in getting information to and from these former students.

Contact Eula Mae Montgomery at 646 Airport Road, Newton, MS 39345. Telephone: (601) 683-2856.

Eula Mae Montgomery
Newton

PEN PALS NEEDED

Editor:

This letter is directed to students in high school through college and to those who work with youth in any capacity.

We need at least 1,000 Christian students who will agree to answer a letter from a Chinese student (in English) and who might continue the correspondence if the Chinese student wishes to become pen pals.

The American students can not only render a service, but as the long-range friendship grows, many have had an opportunity to share their faith with their Chinese pen pal.

They may be the only Christian influence that the Chinese student has known.

Youth workers and individual students who would like to participate should contact NFBE, telling the number of letters from junior high students (grades 7-9), senior high students (grades 10-12), or college students their group will promise to answer.

This must be done before Oct. 31.

The address: John T. Carter, Coordinator; National Fellowship of Baptist Educators, Samford University, Box 292305, Birmingham, AL 35229. Telephone: (205) 822-4106. E-mail: j-fcarter@juno.com.

John T. Carter
Birmingham

THANKS, MISS. BAPTISTS

Editor:

Two of the biggest challenges facing missionaries who return home for state side assignment (furlough) are housing and transportation.

We would like to take this opportunity to commend Mississippi Baptists for the effort they are putting forward helping their missionaries in these areas.

During our past two state side assignments, we have been blessed by the furnished housing provided for us by First Church, Starkville, and Wildwood Church, Clinton.

The Macedonian Call Foundation of Mississippi is also supported by Baptists of Mississippi to support transportation for those missionaries who are home for short times.

During our recent six-month home assignment, this foundation provided us with a 1991 Toyota Station Wagon at a very nominal cost for insurance.

Mr. and Mrs. T. J. Hearon are to be commended for their efforts in starting this foundation and Mississippi Baptists are once again to be commend-

ed for responding to this need.

Lastly, we would like to thank Mississippi Baptists for their warm reception and support that they have extended to us during our recent state side assignment.

As we return to the field, we do so confident in the fact that Mississippi Baptists do care for us and for those our Lord has called us to serve.

Robert and Beverly Thomas
So. Baptist missionaries
North Africa/Middle East

Editor's note: The Macedonian Call Foundation of Mississippi can be contacted at: P.O. Box 156, Ridgeland MS 39158-0156

MISSISSIPPIANS RESPOND

Editor:

I just wanted to express my appreciation for your willingness to run my brief announcement (requesting prayer warriors) in The Baptist Record.

I have received inquiries from several interested people in Mississippi.

I am very excited about the response that I have received in general.

To date, I know that the ad has appeared in eight of the state papers.

I anticipate recruiting many prayer warriors for Western Europe.

Once again, thank you for your help in this undertaking. May God be glorified.

Debbie Cox
Prayer Coordinator, Western
Europe
Int. Mission Board, SBC

JUST FOR THE RECORD



GA Recognition Service, First Church, Terry

First Church, Terry, recently held its GA Recognition Service. Pictured (from left, front row) are Melissa McDaniel, Amber Henry, Jessie Warren, Carolyn Williamson, Blair Whitehead, Danielle Moss, Stacey Dukes,

and Bethany Pope; (back row) Kathy Brisendine, Brittney Williams, Rebecca Johns, Hailey Foster, Rachael Thompson, Claire Ivess, Blaire Jones, Sarah Little, Misty Jones, and Emalee Bell. John Pace Jr. is pastor.

professions of faith, a youth surrendering to youth ministry, another surrendering to the mission field, and one to the ministry. Pictured (from left, front row) are Wendy Beeson, counselor; Nick Smith; Matt Smith; Lindsey Stroud; Abby Jergins; Nathan Jackson; Corey Stroud; and Marilyn Britt, counselor; (second row) Brandon Starnes; Jeremy Beeson; Kristen Beeson; John Whately; Annice Anding; counselor; Kristopher Williams; Brady Jackson; and Corey Beeson; (third row) Marty Stroud, counselor; Wesley Jackson; Sarah Causey; Josh Jones; Vince Rials; Judy McGee, counselor; and Clayton Jackson, counselor.



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Unsigned letters will not be printed. No multi-copy or form letters will be used.

Each correspondent must include an address and telephone number for verification. In special instances, name may be withheld at writer's request and editor's discretion.

Please include the name of cooperating Mississippi Baptist church where correspondent is a member. (Mississippi Baptists' letters will receive priority when space is limited.)

Letters must be limited to 250 words. All correspondence is subject to editing.

Correspondents should refrain from personal attacks. The opinions expressed in letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect the views of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

No more than one letter from any individual will be printed during a three-month period.

When in the judgement of the editor a given issue has received sufficient attention, correspondence dealing with it will no longer be published and a notice will be printed to that effect.

LIFE AND WORK

Angels: what they are

Ps. 34:7; 91:11; 148:2-5; Matt. 18:10; 26:53-54;
Lk. 20:34-36; Heb. 1:14; 2 Pet. 2:10b-11

By Tom Atwood

In his book, *Angels*, Billy Graham affirms that angels are a "neglected and important subject." (p. XI) Surrounding these mysterious creatures is a shroud of misunderstanding. Angels have become a central part of the New Age Movement, the New Spirituality, and other groups in a revival of paganism that is heightened by the dawning of a new millennium.

There are two areas of danger: (1) To reject or ignore this biblical teaching robs one of great blessing. (2) To ascribe to angels far more than the Bible teaches us is to replace reality with fantasy. Having a biblical

and balanced understanding is important. What are angels?

Angels exist (Ps. 148:2-5; Matt. 26:53-54). The psalmist declared that angels exist because they have been created by God at his word. They, along with all other entities both physical and spiritual, are to praise the God who made them. Angelic beings are created beings, thus, less than and subservient to their creator. They were created, not for themselves, but to bring great glory to Christ and God.

Jesus believed in angels. He declared that twelve legions (72,000) of angels could be put at his disposal. Throughout



Atwood

scripture are scattered references to angels. They exist and are mentioned from Genesis to Revelation.

Angelic nature (Lk. 20:34-36, Heb. 1:14). They are beings but not human. There are substantial differences. In refuting the unbelief about the resurrection and the resurrected body, Jesus compared it to the angels who neither marry nor die. Angels are spirit beings without a corporeal nature. They do not marry, procreate, or die. Remarkable creatures!

Their purpose, as it relates to believers, is to provide ministry. The scripture is neither precise nor definitive at this point, but Heb. 1:14 establishes that they are "all ministering spirits sent out to render service" to the people of God. In some sense, they do God's bidding in ministry to God's children. Angels deliver (Acts 5), angels declare (Lk. 2), angels guide (Acts 8), angels warn of

judgement (Dan. 5), angels even foretell the future (Acts 1).

The Bible draws a sharp distinction between angels and humans. This explodes the popular myth that babies become angels when they die. No scripture teaches that one becomes the other. Our personhood, created in God's image, remains intact even after death. 1 Pet. 1:12 indicates this profound distinction in saying that the gospel, energized by the Spirit, is an entity "into which angels long to look." Apparently, in contrast to humans, angelic beings are unable to grasp the greatness of God's grace as they have never known God's salvation from sin.

Guardian angels (Ps. 34:7; 91:11; Matt. 18:10). Given the climate accompanying a millennial change, our culture has become enchanted with the idea of guardian angels. The result is fact mixed with much fiction. Although there is scant biblical evidence for the idea that each believer has his or her own guardian angel there is suffi-

cient information to affirm that angelic beings do have a "guardian" ministry to humans.

Whether the "angel of the Lord" refers to pre-incarnate manifestations of God or to an angelic being, the truth is that God has a vast resource of care and protection for his children. The words of Jesus are more precise: "...do not despise these little ones... their angels in heaven continually behold the face of my Father..." (Matt. 18:10).

Angelic powers (2 Pet. 2:10b-11). Angels have great powers. Angels have shut the mouths of lions (Dan. 6:22); diffused the heat of a fiery furnace (Dan. 3:25); ushered Lazarus into eternity (Lk. 16:22); and will execute devastating judgement (Rev. 9:15). Peter indicates (2 Pet. 2:11) that angels are more powerful than men, but not as powerful as God. They are always under God's rule! They are to be neither feared nor placated. God alone is to be revered.

Atwood is pastor of First Church, Oxford.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Appropriate worship

Leviticus 1:1-7:38

By Sylvia Fleming

In reading Leviticus, we can be assured that it is God who conceived the idea and act of sacrifice. In God's omniscience he knew that man must be provided a way of reconciliation to God. Thus, sacrifice was the vicarious means God chose to cleanse unholy man that he might approach a holy God. "Ye shall be holy, for I am holy" (11:14) demonstrates this need for reconciliation.

The burnt offering is the first sacrifice mentioned. "Let him offer a male without blemish" (1:3). This offering (something that is brought near to the altar) is to be voluntary.

There are several implica-

tions in this act of sacrifice. This unholy man must believe in the one true God, thus, eliminating idolatry.

According to this same verse of scripture, there must be an orderly means of worship.

Finally, there has to be a commitment to God as demonstrated in man's obedience to the will of God (David Levy, *Israel My Glory*). From the sinner — the offerer, we move to the substitute — the offering.

The Israelite would place his hand upon the head of the burnt offering, thus identifying himself with that offering. By committing his sins to the unblemished animal, the offering of the animal's blood



Fleming

became a substitution for the Israelite's life.

The male without blemish foreshadowed the offering God the Father made of his perfect Son Jesus Christ who himself went to the cross voluntarily, died, and rose again the third day as a substitute for man's sins.

Just as the Israelite made his sacrificial offering and must remember that vicarious death, the believer must remember his sins were the ones that sent Jesus to the cross to vicariously suffer the death demanded of sin.

The Israelite then would bring fine flour as a meal offering signifying thanksgiving. For the flour to attain this texture, the Israelite must grind it many times by hand. This offering points to the voluntary thanksgiving the believer brings to God. This presentation and the labor involved speaks of the

love given to God in response to his redemptive work.

The flour was mixed with oil symbolizing the Holy Spirit who administers the perfect will, plans, and purposes of God through mankind. Frankincense was then put on the meal offering manifesting the perfection of the offering, pointing to Jesus and his perfection. The believer in turn is to offer himself as "a living sacrifice holy, acceptable unto God..." (Rom. 12:1).

When God gave the Law to Moses, man realized that he was guilty of personal sin. Though God made man responsible for his sins, God also made provision for their atonement. The Israelite learned of the seriousness of his sin and a need to escape the consequence sin would bring.

Though the law required blood sacrifice, they were continually repeated; for they only foreshadowed the work of Jesus Christ. We are told in

Hebrews 10:4, "For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats should take away sins."

That blood was only a covering pointing to the cross where the perfect Lamb would shed his blood for all. His blood does not cover sins, but washes them away. "For...the law of the [Holy] Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death" (Romans 8:2). This freedom bought with that blood was once and for all.

Whatever the sin, it is necessary to confess and sometimes make amends, just as it was in the Old Testament economy. With confession to God and repentance — the turning away from the sin — the believer can have assurance that he is at one with God because God promises: "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9).

Fleming is a member of Bond Church, Neshoba Association.

FAMILY BIBLE SERIES

Called to involvement

Exodus 3:1-12

By Jerry L. Smith

I'll never forget my call into vocational ministry. On a mission trip to New Orleans, with Campus Crusade for Christ, we witnessed at a downtown prison, on the campus of Tulane University, and in the French Quarter. I knew at the end of the week that God was calling me to invest my life in helping people recognize their spiritual need and also to showing them how Christ could meet that need. I knew that God was calling me to be a "full-time" minister.

Does God just call preachers, or does he call carpenters, lawyers, nurses, teachers, and those in other occupations, to "full-time" service? I think that

he does. Regardless of our vocation, God still expects us to be "full-time" for him.

Moses was minding his own business when God showed up, showed out, and rocked his desert lifestyle by catapulting him out of his comfort zone. Notice that while the sheep grazed by the mountain of Horeb, Jethro's son-in-law, and number one shepherd, was about to hear more than the bleating of his flock. He was about to have an encounter with God.

Unexpected encounter (vv. 1-6). For Moses, God showed up in a barren desert. He showed out by firing up a bush without damaging its future potential as kindling.



Smith

For me, he showed up on a college campus, in a prison cell, and outside of a restaurant that served "hurricanes."

Are you listening for his call in the midst of the routine matters of life? Do you hear him as you drive to work, mow the yard, or play with the kids?

Remember, God speaks in other places besides church, and on other days besides Sundays.

Unmistakable purpose (vv. 7-8). When God calls, he always has a specific purpose in mind for us. He wanted Moses to deliver the Israelites from their Egyptian taskmasters. When he calls you, he has a specific task that is tailored just for you. You might prefer the more glamorous work of leading a nation, but somebody's got to teach, sing, serve, and fill up the baptistry.

Unforeseen call (vv. 9-10). As I think about the call of Moses,

and equate it with how we respond to God's voice today, I wonder if Moses ever wanted to say, "God, why can't you just 'hire' this thing done?" Isn't that our first response when we are made aware of a need? Isn't it easier to pull out our checkbook than to sacrifice our time?

When we choose to substitute our money for our time, we miss an even greater blessing. There is no substitute for personal involvement. Whether we agree with his way of doing things or not, God chooses to use people to carry out his work.

Unfortunate response (v. 11). I couldn't find the verse in my NIV where Moses wanted to "hire out" the position of orchestrating the exodus, but that is not to say he didn't have some objections to God's plan.

Moses tried to get out from under God's call by claiming that he was a failure and would make an inadequate leader. This is not

an altogether bad assessment of his past. He had made some mistakes in life, but who hasn't? God seems to use those people who are more spiritually dependent than personally gifted.

I've had meals that have made me nauseated, but I've also met people who have had the same effect on me. Their pompous attitude was suffocating to my spirit.

God abides in those people who would prefer to trust in him than in their own natural charm and charisma.

Turn the CD player off on the way to work tomorrow morning. You may hear the voice of our Father, who has a special task just for you. He knows you're weak, but he's promised to be with you and to help you.

Don't make him have to go "hire" it done.

Smith is pastor of First Church, Summit.

THE VILLAGE VIEW



Ronny E. Robinson, Executive Director

P.O. Box 27
Clinton, MS 39060-0027
(601) 922-2242
e-mail: bcv1@misnet.com

Gifts of Honor and Memory

A portion of The Village View is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful, and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

JULY 1-31, 1999 MEMORIALS

Mrs. Marie Newsom
Ina Buckley
Marcia B. Smith

Mrs. Burnice Newsome
Mr. & Mrs. Laney A. Berry
Mrs. Marie Newsome
Ruth SSC, Newhebron BC-
Newhebron
David Newton
Mr. & Mrs. Greg Lively
Norman Nichols
Pine Burr BC

Peggy O'Neal
Dr. & Mrs. John M. Norsworthy
Mr. Cleon W. O'Quin
Mr. & Mrs. Douglas Aultman
Mr. Barney Oswalt
Mr. & Mrs. Harmon O. Alley
Mr. Mayfield Owings
Mr. & Mrs. Albert Hilliard
Mr. Otis Parkes
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph S. Lyons
Mrs. Mary S. Parkman
Mrs. Mildred M. Boyd
Louise Ann Peckham
Mr. & Mrs. Fred L. Gaddis
Mrs. Cora Jane Peters
Mr. & Mrs. Robert N. Batchelor
Nellie C. Batchelor
Mrs. Irene L. Brister
Tonya Davis
Dr. Larry H. Day
Mr. & Mrs. Roy Deal
Mr. & Mrs. Robert M. Gillespie
Ms. Annie Jenkins
Mr. & Mrs. Finis R. Lewellin
Ms. Mildred C. Lyons
Mrs. Earl McNamee
Pat & Bill Sanders
Mr. & Mrs. Walter D. Smith
Dr. & Mrs. John E. Green
Mrs. Robert D. Peters
Mr. & Mrs. Louis T. Baker
Mr. & Mrs. Moran M. Pope Jr.
Ms. Mary L. Phelps
Mr. & Mrs. Billy Mangold
Mrs. Ada Wood Pinkston
Mr. & Mrs. Raymond L. Craig Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Frank K. Odom
Miss Kathryn Boykin Pittman
Mr. & Mrs. Max H. Watson
Mr. & Mrs. Curtis A. Buchanan

Bernon Pounds
Mrs. Louise F. Cathey
Margarite Reaves
Mr. & Mrs. Max H. Watson
Wesley L. Reeves
Mrs. Vada N. Johnson
Mr. Edd Reid
Ms. Bonnie G. Shirley
Kathryn Rippey
Mr. & Mrs. Charles E. Speed
Johnny G. Rhymes
FBC McLain
Barbara Kaye Crosby Robbins
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Coil
Ryder Royce Roberts
Mr. & Mrs. Carl C. Lowry
Beverly Corder
Susan Polk

Ronnie Robertson
Lynn & Myron Johnson
Mr. Claude Robinson
Walter Cooper Fulton
Billy Rogers
Mrs. James P. Fancher
Elizabeth Rogers
Mr. Harris G. Rogers Jr.
Mr. Roy Rogers
Goss BC
Mrs. Juanita Roof
Mrs. J. Wesley Miller
Mr. Raymond Rounsaville
Mr. Mike Daughdrill
Ladies III Fellowship SSC,
FBC-Leakesville
Robert M. Russell, Jr.
The Cheryl M. Rogers Family
Mrs. Lillian Spain Salter
Dr. & Mrs. Leon Dale
Ms. Tammy Turner
Mrs. Audrey W. Brand
Mrs. Alice F. Gage
Martha & Henry Hederman
Mr. & Mrs. James E. Hudson
Mr. Burlon "Slim" Scoggins
Mr. & Mrs. Ralph L. Carroll
Lee Seaton-Todd
Ms. Patricia Walston
Mrs. Martha T. Setzer
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmie Smith
Mrs. Mary K. Evans
Mr. & Mrs. Charles A. James
Mrs. Irene V. Thompson
Mr. & Mrs. Rhen W. Pierce
Mrs. Edna Shoemaker
Mr. & Mrs. Everett S. Cole Jr.
J. V. Smith
Mrs. J. V. Smith
Mr. Virgil Smith
Mrs. Carolyn B. Guynes
Mr. & Mrs. Billy Mangold
Mrs. Ola Pearl Smith
Lavan Seales SSC,
Macedonia BC
Hazel Snellings
Mr. & Mrs. Robert A. Gullidge
Steve Spence
Mrs. Katie Kemp
Brother of Mr. Ronnie Starnes
Ms. Majie Northway
Mr. Milburn "Buck" Starnes
Mr. & Mrs. W. F. Bowers
Mrs. Janeiro L. Cranage
Jane Ishee
Marian Wingo
Mrs. Doris R. Young
Bessie & Pete Saway

Ms. Ann Holland
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Mr. & Mrs. Louis J. Dugas
Seabrook Paint Company
Mr. & Mrs. William M. Davis
Mrs. Irah M. Staton
Jane M. Goodson
Kent Stribling
Art & Milma A. Wiseloge

Polly Stroud
Mrs. Bix C. Thompson
Amelia Christine McCarthy Sutt
Mrs. Ustane Butler
Inez Taylor
Adult Men's SSC, Harmony
BC-Crystal Sprgs
Robert S. Taylor
Mrs. Barbara Dunning

Mr. Tommie Taylor
Family of the late Inez & Sam
Black
Mrs. Florence Temple
Siloam BC
Mr. & Mrs. Robert McDonald
Kyle Terry
Mrs. Effie T. Dempsey
Mrs. Ethel Touchstone
Miss Mary Alice Jolly
Mrs. Annie Trest
Rev. & Mrs. Howard T.
Scarborough
Mrs. Marie Tucker
Greg & Shelia Carpenter, Kyle,
Cody, Cade & Caleb
Cory & Carmen Curtis,
Kennedy & Colby
Shane & Tonya Robertson &
Emma
A. D. & Faye Robertson
Dr. Barbara Turner
Mrs. Earline Whitehead
Maudie Opal Vanlandingham
Mrs. Jacqueline B. Fuqua
LeVerne Varner
Mr. Walter Barbee
Doris McDonald Vaughn
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Mrs. Viola Vineyard
Mrs. Mera C. Hall
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Mr. & Mrs. Donald L.
McCormick
Doug White
Mr. & Mrs. Carl DeLoach,
Lindsey & Kristi
Robert D. White
Mrs. Aline W. Germany
Mrs. Lee Parks
Dot Whitfield
Mr. George Allen Lee
Mr. Conan F. Whitten
Ankle Cleveland
Mrs. Janeiro L. Cranage
Mr. & Mrs. Jim W. Burt
Mr. & Mrs. James F. Smith
Mrs. Hazel Young
Mr. & Mrs. Wilson Taylor

Second Annual Baptist Children's Village Benefit

Gospel Singing



Featuring:

Jubilation Quartet
Hallelujah

Magnolia State Quartet
The Travelers Quartet

Steve Bishop with Shelton Whittington

Saturday, September 11

6:30 p.m.

Fine Arts Auditorium

Southwest Mississippi Community College

Enjoy an evening of great Southern Gospel singing
while supporting a wonderful organization

\$5 per person donation at door

BCV staffers, residents on mission in Brazil

Alisa Brashear, BCV counselor; Jessica R., BCV resident; Bill Maner, BCV activities director; Jennifer S., former BCV resident; and Kim Parker, BCV recreation assistant joined 10 others from around to state of Mississippi in a mission trip to Luzilandia, Piaui in Brazil.



Reading program leads 2,000 to salvation

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia (BP) — Some days, 74 Cambodian children cram into a simple 15-by-20-foot hut, built on stilts with a palm-leaf roof, to

International in Tulsa, Okla.

The team developed three primers to be used in Cambodian communities to teach local people how to read and write the Khmer language — meeting the overwhelming literacy needs of 40 percent of rural Cambodians and 15 percent of the city dwellers.

A Southern Baptist worker trained Sin Maneth, the Cambodian national Baptist coordinator, and several regional coordinators to use the literacy resources.

He meets with CALP leaders about twice a year to help them upgrade their

knowledge, discuss the development of new resources, hear reports from regional leaders and map areas of work in the country.

The leaders hope to have 5,000 students enrolled in CALP in all of Cambodia's 21 provinces by January 2000 — but the number could be much higher, depending on fiscal resources.

Many of the teachers volunteer their services, but resources still are limited for the program, which is supported mostly by outside donations.

Resources also directly affect Cambodians' partici-

pation in the program. Many students must quit the program because they frequently must travel to new locations to find work so they can support their families.

Som Nang prays for rain, because when there is no rain, there is no food. But if people can eat, they can study.

"When families are starving, it is hard for them to focus on anything else," the Southern Baptist worker said.

Lack of lighting also hinders the classes.

"It's very difficult to get people to come study, because it's

dark when they come," Som Nang explained. "They've been working all day and they are tired."

"For \$17 you can get lights and a battery. People could study much better, and they could see to study. It is difficult to read by candlelight, and it gets hot with everyone crowding around to read."

Despite the obstacles, CALP leaders and teachers press on toward their program

goals, rejoicing in each soul who accepts Christ as Savior through their studies.

For Sin Maneth, the possibilities reach beyond each person to the entire nation.

"If we want people to come to Jesus, they've got to be able to read," she said. "This is the time for Christians in Cambodia."

"This is our time to make Cambodia a Christian place. And if people can read and write, this is the way to peace for this country."

"It is also the way to better health."



LEARNING TIME — Cambodia Adult Literacy Program teacher Som Nang (back, center) looks on as a student displays her Khmer reading skills at the chalkboard during an afternoon class in a small rural hut. (BP photo by Sandy King)



SERIOUS STUDY — Students of the Cambodia Adult Literacy Program study their Khmer language during a rural class. CALP classes offer the only opportunity for many Cambodians to learn to read and write, as many are too poor to afford formal education. (BP photo by Sandy King)

Bibliocipher

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KZQ SX AVG KHH FAKF
SYHVYPY KUY IREFVCVYQ
CULG KHH FAVZBE,
CULG TAVMA XY MLRHQ
ZLF SY IREFVCVYQ SX
FAY HKT LC GLEYE.

KMFE FAVUFYYZ: FAVUFX-

ZVZY

Clue: S = B

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Philippians One: Six.

More than 2,000 students have taken to heart the simple stories about Jesus' life and have accepted him as their personal Lord and Savior.

The teacher of this class, 19-year-old Som Nang, teaches the many children and few adults during the day in her parents' home while most of the village adults eke out an existence in nearby fields.

The children who attend the day classes want to learn because either there are no schools in their areas or they can't afford to go to school.

Come nightfall, 54 adults will fight fatigue and sometimes hunger in this same hut to learn the same lessons by candlelight.

In a few huts scattered across the countryside, evening CALP classes will be privileged to learn by a single fluorescent bulb powered by a car battery.

The literacy program was developed and implemented in 1998 by Southern Baptist workers in Southeast Asia, the Christian & Missionary Alliance in Cambodia, and Literacy Evangelism



Ron M. Power, Ph.D.
Minister of Counseling
First Church, Jackson

LifeAnswers

My daughter and son-in-law have a four year old son, and they do not let him go anywhere. They live in the country and the child does not socialize with other children. Isn't this detrimental?

It depends on the child and his personality. The parents seem to be introverts who enjoy their privacy. The child may have the same personality (but not always). Children should learn how to deal with other people, because they will have to do so as adults. As a grandparent, you can offer outside interaction — with cousins or neighborhood children, for example — that will help your grandson develop those skills. Respect the wishes

of the parents; they may not be doing what is best for the child, but the perception that you are interfering may cause even more problems. Be there for your grandson and provide the love and nurture that only a grandparent can.

My husband and I just sent our first child to college. This was much more traumatic than I expected, even though we have other children at home. Why do I feel so lost?

The child you had the longest — and in many ways the child with whom you grew up — has left the nest and you are not as involved with him

as you were only a few months ago. There is a genuine grief as you adjust to the changes in your life and home. You will adapt to the big hole that exists now in your house. Give yourself time. Evaluate the ways you can fill the void; you now have some extra time to devote to the things that interest you. Make preparations for the empty nest, just as you prepared the nest for the arrival of this child. Talk openly with your husband about your feelings, dream about the possibilities, and pray for God's guidance as you begin this new experience. Don't replace the adventure that lies ahead of you with a sense of fear.

Send your counseling questions to LifeAnswers c/o The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Please be brief. Name is not required. Remember: in time of crisis, your pastor can make recommendations on your counseling needs.